

# T O R R A N C E

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Revision Correcting the April 22, 2016 Press Release**

It has been brought to the City's attention that the **South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Agency**, NOT the SCAQMD Hearing Board, entered into a Settlement Agreement with ExxonMobil in which ExxonMobil will pay an approximate \$5 million in penalties (not fines) of which half, approximately \$2.5 million, will be earmarked to be used for projects to benefit the communities surrounding the refinery. Below please find a Revised Press Release with the correct information included:

### **South Coast Air Quality Management District to Determine How \$2.5 Million from ExxonMobil Penalty will Benefit Torrance, Region**

Torrance, Calif., April 26, 2016 – The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has entered into a Settlement Agreement with ExxonMobil in which ExxonMobil will pay an approximate \$5 million penalty for violations of air pollution rules and regulations, mostly as a result of a February 2015 explosion at the company's Torrance refinery.

In a separate and independent action that did not include penalties, at an April 2, 2016 public hearing held in Torrance, the SCAQMD Hearing Board issued an Order for Abatement that allows the ExxonMobil refinery restart the refinery in a safer manner, while minimizing the emissions to protect health and safety of nearby residents.

The SCAQMD has also earmarked one half of the penalties (approximately \$2.5 million) to be used in projects to benefit the neighborhoods and communities surrounding the refinery. The City can propose projects it would like to see implemented with

(More)

these funds. SCAQMD will have discretion over how the funds are disbursed. Projects will be considered by the board at a future meeting. The date for that meeting has not yet been announced.

The Torrance City Council, at its April 19, 2016 meeting, discussed projects that may be included in its proposal to the SCAQMD.

Projects presented at the April 19 City Council meeting that were considered for submission by the City based on past funded projects by the SCAQMD agency include but are not limited to:

- Developing and/or supplementing rapid, multi-agency response to critical situations, which could include but is not limited to radios and communications equipment for Emergency Operations Center
- Transitioning a portion of City fleet vehicles to electric vehicles
- Installing solar panels at City Hall and/or the City Yard
- Increased community training and education

Community members also expressed interest in more robust community warning and air quality monitoring systems. City Council directed staff to forward recommendations from the Council and public as discussed at this meeting to the SCAQMD Governing Board.

City officials also encourage residents to contact the South Coast Air Quality Management District directly to suggest projects they would like to see funded.

To be considered for discussion by the SCAQMD Governing Board, suggestions may be emailed to all SCAQMD Governing Board members and the Executive Officer. Visit [TorranceCA.Gov/Refinery](http://TorranceCA.Gov/Refinery) to obtain the [SCAQMD Governing Board Roster](#). For additional information regarding the ExxonMobil refinery restart please see the SCAQMD's web page at [www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/compliance/exxonmobil-refinery](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/compliance/exxonmobil-refinery).

Go to [www.TorranceCA.Gov/Refinery](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov/Refinery) for more information about the Feb. 18, 2015 incident at the ExxonMobil Torrance refinery and the public hearings held Jan. 13, 2016, and April 2, 2016, as well as informational handouts, other links, and just added today Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on what you can do before, during and after the restart.

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